

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A bracket for an airbag subassembly comprising:

a base;

an inflator opening that is positioned in an internal portion of the said base; and

at least two retention members that are bent to form an angle with and extend from said
base into the inflator opening, said retention members being approximately perpendicular to said
base,

wherein said retention members are formed integral with said base, and

wherein said retention members are curled in shape to form a surface defining cavity
extending perpendicular to said base ~~adapted to extend substantially perpendicular to the base.~~
2. (Previously Presented) The bracket of claim 1 wherein said inflator opening is
provided between said retention members.
3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim-3 1 wherein ~~the surface is an arcuate surface and wherein~~ said retention members each include an insertion point and a lip, said insertion point extending a greater distance from said base than said lip.

5. (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim-3 1 wherein each of said retention members further ~~define~~ includes a retention cavity formed therein.

6. (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim 5 wherein each of said retention members ~~define~~ includes a first engagement surface and a second engagement surface within said retention cavity.

7. (Original) The bracket of claim 6 wherein said cavity extending from said base is at least partially located between said first and second engagement surfaces.

8. (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim-3 1 wherein said surface includes a first leg and a second leg; and
wherein said second leg is angled relative to said first leg.

9. (Original) The bracket of claim 8 wherein each of said ~~legs define~~ retention members includes a retention cavity formed therein; and

wherein said first leg defines a first engagement surface within said retention cavity and said second leg defines a second engagement surface within said retention cavity.

10. (Currently Amended) An airbag subassembly comprising:

a support structure having at least two apertures;

a bracket comprising:

a base;

an inflator opening that is positioned in an internal portion of the base; and

at least two retention members that extend from said base into the inflator

opening, wherein said retention members are formed at an arcuate interface portion at said base, and are integral with said base,

wherein said retention members are adapted to extend substantially perpendicular to the base, and

wherein said retention members are arcuate in shape and adapted to extend through said apertures in said support structure into the inflator opening.

11. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 10 further including a retention mechanism coupled to said support structure to engage said retention members to couple said bracket to said support structure.

12. (Currently Amended) The airbag subassembly of claim 11 wherein each of said retention members ~~define~~ includes a retention cavity formed therein, and wherein said retention mechanism is ~~disposable~~ disposed into in said retention cavity.

13. (Currently Amended) The airbag subassembly of claim 12 wherein each of said retention members ~~define~~ includes a first engagement surface and a second engagement surface within said retention cavity.

14. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 12 wherein said retention mechanism includes an engaged position and said retention mechanism engages said first and second engagement surfaces in said engaged position.

15. (Currently Amended) The airbag subassembly of claim 14 wherein said retention mechanism includes a rest position, and each of said retention members includes an insertion point, a contact surface and a lip that is positioned between said contact surface and said insertion point and wherein said insertion point, said lip and said contact surface displace said retention mechanism from said rest position as said retention members are inserted into said aperture, until said retention mechanism becomes disposed in said retention cavity in said engaged position.

16. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 12 wherein said retention mechanism partially obstructs said apertures in said rest position.

17. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 10 wherein said bracket is a sealing plate.

18. (Previously Presented) The airbag subassembly of claim 17 further including a housing that is positioned between said sealing plate and said support structure, said housing defining at least two pin receivers to allow said retention members to pass through said housing and into said apertures on said support structure.

19. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 10 wherein said bracket is a housing.

20. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 10 wherein said bracket is a retainer ring.

21. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 10 wherein said bracket is a stamped metal bracket with said retention members being stamped integral with said base.

22. (Previously Presented) The airbag subassembly of claim 21 wherein said bracket defines the inflator opening between said retention members.

23. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 22 wherein said support structure is a horn bracket.

24. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 22 wherein said support structure is a steering wheel armature.

25. (Previously Presented) The airbag subassembly of claim 10 further including a horn bracket between said support structure and said bracket, said horn bracket defining at least two pin receivers for allowing passage of said retention members to said apertures.

26. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 10 wherein said support structure is a steering wheel armature and said bracket is a horn bracket.

27. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 10 wherein said retention members include at least three contact areas for engaging said apertures.

28. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a bracket for an airbag subassembly for retaining an airbag module on a support structure, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a metal sheet having a base defined thereon;

defining an inflator opening in the base, the inflator opening being positioned in an internal portion of the base;

defining retention members that extend into said inflator opening;

stamping the metal sheet to remove portions of the metal sheet, including portions defined by the inflator opening; and

bending said retention members to form an angle between the retention members and the base, such that the retention members are formed in an arcuate shape at a portion integral with the base and in an arcuate shape along a length of the retention members extending into the inflator opening.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein said step of stamping said metal sheets includes forming a retention cavity in said retention members.

30. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 28~~ A method of forming a bracket for an airbag subassembly for retaining an airbag module on a support structure, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a metal sheet having a base defined thereon;

defining an inflator opening in the base, the inflator opening being positioned in an internal portion of the base;

defining retention members that extend into said inflator opening;

stamping the metal sheet to remove portions of the metal sheet, including portions defined by the inflator opening;

bending said retention members to form an angle between the retention members and the base, such that the retention members are formed integral with the base; and

wherein said step of bending said retention members includes the step of bending said retention members to be approximately perpendicular to said base and curling said retention members to form a surface defining a cavity extending perpendicular to said metal sheet.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 28~~ A method of forming a bracket for an airbag subassembly for retaining an airbag module on a support structure, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a metal sheet having a base defined thereon;

defining an inflator opening in the base, the inflator opening being positioned in an internal portion of the base;

defining retention members that extend into said inflator opening;

stamping the metal sheet to remove portions of the metal sheet, including portions defined by the inflator opening;

bending said retention members to form an angle between the retention members and the base, such that the retention members are formed integral with the base; and

wherein said step of bending said retention members includes the step of curling said retention members to form shaped retention members.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein said step of bending said retention members includes the step of bending said shaped retention members to be approximately perpendicular to said base after said step of curling said retention members.

33. (Currently Amended) A bracket for an airbag subassembly comprising:
a base;
an inflator opening that is positioned in an internal portion of the base; and
at least two retention members that extend from said base into the inflator opening, the retention members having ~~a curved~~ an arcuate shape ~~shaped~~, including ~~a curved~~ an arcuate interface at a portion of the at least two retention members that contact the base, wherein said retention members are formed integral with said base, and
wherein said arcuate-shaped retention members are adapted to extend substantially perpendicular to the base and into the inflator opening.

34. (Previously Presented) A method of forming a bracket for an airbag subassembly for retaining an airbag module on a support structure, said method comprising the steps of:

- providing a metal sheet having a base defined thereon;
- defining an inflator opening in the base, the inflator opening being positioned in an internal portion of the base;
- defining retention members that extend into said inflator opening or that extend outwardly from the base;
- stamping the metal sheet to remove portions of the metal sheet, including portions defined by the inflator opening;
- curling the retention members to include a curved interface at a portion of the retention members that contact the base; and
- bending the retention members to form an angle between the retention members and the base, such that the retention members are formed integral with the base.